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Note by the Secretary-General

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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. Arab Network for Environment and Development (Special; 1996)

PART I. Introduction

RAED is a network of Arab Non-Governmental Organizations "NGOs" including more than 250 NGOs from Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Sudan, Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Yemen. **RAED** has been established to satisfy NGOs actual needs in the different Arab countries with a view to create an umbrella that gather them all. This has been made clear through the Arab NGOs consultancy conference, held in Cairo 1990, in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janerio, Brazil 1992. **RAED** in an Arab international organization that has legal entity and that is financially and morally independent so it is completely eligible to run its activities and achieve its goals. **RAED** has the official recognition as **"An International Non Governmental Organization"** by the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is registered in the Ministry of Social Solidarity.

The following objectives are: (i) Facilitating the communication channels between NGOs at the international level on one hand, and the Arab NGOs participating in the network on the other hand, to strengthen the Arab presence in the international arena; (ii) Establishing partnerships with all relevant stakeholders in the region and internationally; (iii) Designing the regional CSOs strategies on sustainable development; (iv) Preparing and drafting proposals concerning the implementation of different size projects through RAED members and national coordinators as well as the Secretariat; (v) Developing training and orientation programs to upgrade the capabilities of RAED coordinators; (vi) Participating in the Arab and International symposia and conferences, if their themes are of relevance to RAED activities; (vii) Satisfying the members' needs in term of technical and administrative professionals through information exchange between them and capacity building activities.

In 1995, The League of Arab States (LAS) recognized RAED and offered it the position of being an active observer in all meetings of the Technical General Secretariat of the "Council of the Arab Ministries Responsible for Environment" (CAMRE). RAED was the first Arab NGO that has been given this honour. His Excellency **Mr. Amr Mousa**, Secretary General of LAS, accepted the honourable presidency of RAED. Also, in 2006, it was granted special consultative status with the Arab League Economic and Social Council of the League of Arab States.

PART II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

RAED succeeded in the reporting period to participate in most of the international, regional and national events relating to the environment and sustainable development organized by different United Nations organizations and programmes. Many of these activities and conferences were attended by RAED members who contributed by various means either by submitting working papers, researches, success stories and/or work plans, or by organizing the NGOs meetings and consultations back to back with the official meetings and conferences.

i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings:

The following are: (i) Sustainable Agricultural Development and Environment Conference, 14-16 October 2004, Amman, Jordan. RAED contributed in the organization of the conference in cooperation with the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development. Also, RAED submitted a research study on Role the NGOs in agricultural development according to its experience in Elba Series Mountains Community Development Programme that was funded by United Nations Development Programme, South East of Egypt; (ii) Commission on Sustainable Development, 12th Session (CSD), 20-28 April 2004, United Nations Headquarters, New York, United States. RAED participated in the events and sessions as an accredited consultative organization; (iii) African Youth Environment Outlook/Global Environment Outlook Sub-regional meeting, 1-3 August 2004, Cairo, Egypt. RAED in cooperation with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) organized a three-day workshop to follow up the "Tunza Strategy" for North Africa Youth with 15 participants from Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Egypt; (iv) Regional Forum Seminar on the role of Communication and Information in preserving the Man and Environment, 4-7 October 2004, League of Arab States, Cairo, Egypt. RAED presented a working paper on Partnership Building in the field of Communication and Information and their Negative Impacts Reduction; (v) Following up Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JoPI) Consultations, 10 October 2004, Kingdom of Bahrain and 7 December 2004, LAS, Cairo, Egypt. The consultations were focused on discussing in-depth the "Water, Energy, Health, Agriculture and Biodiversity (WEHAB) Initiative" and how the Arab Civil Society could play an essential role in enforcing such a valuable initiative. RAED was in charge of organizing these events by inviting NGOs representatives from 17 Arab Countries; (vi) Global Civil Society Forum and Governing Council of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) preparatory and official meetings, April and November 2004, October 2005, February and October 2006 and February 2007, Nairobi, Kenya and Dubai, United Arab Emirates. RAED is accredited to attend the annual and thematic meeting of UNEP as a Regional network; (vii) The Second Regional Forum "from Sea to Sea" Integrated Coastal Zone Management, 14-16 February, Cairo, Egypt. The Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) invited RAED to present a paper on its experience in the field of Integrated Coastal Zone Management; (viii) The Arab Mediterranean Conference on Environmental Citizenship, 30 March – 1 April 2005, Beirut, Lebanon. RAED organized the conference under the auspices of the Secretary-General of League of Arab States (LAS) to discuss the values and concepts of Environmental Citizenship and set a Road Map to transfer from hypothesis to application; (ix) Series of Workshops on "30 years after Barcelona Convention and founding United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP)" September – October 2005, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Egypt, Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon. RAED implemented one day national workshop in each country in cooperation with UNEP/MAP to discuss the countries' efforts to implement Barcelona Convention and the effective role of UNEP/MAP in the region; (x) World Summit for Information Society, 13-21 November 2005, Tunis, Tunisia. RAED in coalition with other networks and association organized the Civil Society meetings and Arab Caucus during the summit and held special sessions to present its aims and efforts in the field of Information Sharing and availability; (xi) Second Arab-International Forum on Rehabilitation and Development in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, 23-25 November 2005, Beirut, Lebanon. The forum meeting was

organized by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA) and RAED was represented to set with all present the ways and tools to rehabilitate that could be done through the civil society; (xii) Fourth Water World Forum (4th WWF), 14-24 March 2006, Mexico city, Mexico. RAED attended the proceedings of the forum and it was represented in most of the Arab and international sessions and one of its members "Arab Office for Youth and Environment (AOYE)" was nominated to get the Kyoto Grand Water Prize as one of best 30 case studies in the field of Water all over the world; (xiii) Arab Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Action Plan meeting to support Lebanon Reconstruction, 16 October 2006, Beirut, Lebanon. RAED shared the presence to set an action plan from the Arab CSOs point of view to rehabilitate Lebanon after war. The meeting was held in the shadow of the League of Arab States Economical and Social Council meetings; (xiv) African Development Bank (ADB) Meetings, 27 March – 1 April 2006, Bamako, Mali; 14-19 May 2006, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. RAED is representing North Africa in the permanent ADB/CSO committee and it has a sincere role in conveying the voices of African Civil Society to the bank officials to be taken into consideration in the bank projects all over the continent; (xv) Road Map for the protection of Nature and Poverty Alleviation in West Central Asia and North Africa Round Table, 24-28 March 2007, Beirut, Lebanon. IUCN and through West Central Asia and North Africa (WESCANA) organized a round table for discussing the tools of preserving the nature and poverty alleviation. RAED was invited to set the approaches that cope with traditions for these challenges; (xvi) The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia ESCWA Meeting, 21-24 June 2007, Damascus and Tadmor, Syrian Arab Republic. RAED attended the meetings to set together cooperation mechanisms between Middle East and North Africa countries and European Commission countries in the field of renewable energy technology transfer besides assessing the current situation according to the outputs of Bonn International Conference on Renewable Energy 2004.

2. Global Fund for Children
(Special; 2004)

PART I. Introduction

i) Aims and purposes

The mission of The Global Fund for Children (GFC) is to advance the dignity of children and youth around the world. GFC pursues its mission by making small grants to innovative community-based organizations working with some of the world's most vulnerable children and youth, complemented by a dynamic media program that, through books, documentary photography, and film, highlights the issues affecting children and celebrates the global society in which we all live.

ii) Changes that have had significant impact on vision or function

Revision of Portfolios: GFC's traditional portfolio areas of Schools and Scholarships, Hazardous Child Labour, Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, and the Distinctive Needs of Vulnerable Boys were absorbed within new macro frames: Learning, Enterprise, Safety, Healthy Minds and Bodies, and Creative Opportunities. This impacted the scouting and classification of grantee partners.

Responding to Crisis: Following the 25 December 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, Rapid Response grants are given to current grantee partners who have been affected by and are responding to an immediate crisis; Recovery and Renewal grants are given to current grantee partners in areas where a large scale crisis has been declared over, but reconstruction is either ongoing or has failed. This expanded the type of support that GFC provides to grantee partners.

Metrics: In Fiscal Year 2007, GFC contracted The Vallarta Institute and Sociometrics Corporation to collaborate with GFC President, staff, Metrics Subcommittee of GFC's Board of Directors, and other key stakeholders to design and implement an evaluation framework. This increased GFC's ability to collect and report metrics data related to GFC's grant making.

Under Eight Initiative: GFC launched an Under Eight (U-8) Initiative at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative from 26-28 September 2007 in New York City. This expanded our grant making strategy into a new area.

PART II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the UN

i) Participation in Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

Former GFC staff member Elizabeth Ruethling attended the 2005 World Summit from 14-16 September 2005 at United Nations Headquarters in New York (it is unknown to current GFC staff which side events were attended or to what extent GFC participated). GFC did not participate further in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings due to small staff size and transition from 2005-2007.

ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

GFC attended the XVI International AIDS Conference from 13-18 August 2006 in Toronto, Canada (it is unknown to current GFC staff who attended or to what extent GFC participated). GFC has continued to be a member of the Coalition on Children Affected by AIDS (CCABA). GFC did not participate further with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters due to small staff size and transition from 2005-2007.

iii) Initiatives undertaken in support of the Millennium Development Goals

The Global Fund for Children worked towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by supporting grassroots, community-based organizations (CBOs) who implement programs and projects related to these goals. GFC contributed in the following: Africa, East and Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa, North America, and South Asia. Actions undertaken were the following:

Goal 2 - Achieve universal primary education

Target 3: Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling

(a) Under GFC's Schools and Scholarships portfolio in Fiscal Year 2004-2005: (i) Number of organizations supported = 51; (ii) Total amount awarded = $514,000 USD; (iii) Countries = 33 -

Africa: Benin, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia; East and Southeast Asia: Cambodia, China, Mongolia, Viet Nam; Eastern Europe: Georgia, Romania, Ukraine; Latin America and the Caribbean: Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala, Haiti, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago; Middle East and North Africa: Egypt; North America: United States of America; South Asia: Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.

(b) Under GFC's Schools and Scholarships portfolio in Fiscal Year 2005-2006: (i) Number of organizations supported = 51; (ii) Total amount awarded = $552,000 USD; (iii) Countries = 35 - Africa: Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia; East and Southeast Asia: Cambodia, China, Mongolia, Thailand, Viet Nam; Eastern Europe: Georgia, Romania, Ukraine; Latin America and the Caribbean: Bolivia, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago; North America: United States of America; South Asia: Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.

(c) Under GFC's Learning portfolio in Fiscal Year 2006-2007: (i) Number of organizations supported = 74; (ii) Total amount awarded = $846,500 USD; (iii) Countries = 36 - Africa: Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe; East and Southeast Asia: Cambodia, China, Mongolia, Thailand, Viet Nam; Eastern Europe: Georgia, Romania, Ukraine; Latin America and the Caribbean: Bolivia, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago; North America: United States; South Asia: Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka.

(d) Under GFC's Learning portfolio in Fiscal Year 2007-(2008): (i) Number of organizations supported = 86; (ii) Total amount awarded = $1,014,000 USD; (iii) Countries = 36 - Africa: Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Mauritius, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe; East and Southeast Asia: Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Mongolia, Thailand, Viet Nam; Eastern Europe: Georgia, Romania, Turkey, Ukraine; Latin America and the Caribbean: Bolivia, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru; North America: United States; South Asia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka.

Goal 8 - Develop a global partnership for development
Target 16: In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth

(a) Under GFC's Preventing Hazardous Child Labour portfolio in Fiscal Year 2004-2005: (i) Number of organizations supported = 21; (ii) Total amount awarded = $184,000 USD; (iii) Countries = 16 - Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, Togo; East and Southeast Asia: Philippines; Latin America and the Caribbean: Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru; South Asia: India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.
(b) Under GFC's Preventing Hazardous Child Labor portfolio in Fiscal Year 2005-2006: (i) Number of organizations supported = 24; (ii) Total amount awarded = $250,000 USD; (iii) Countries = 16 -

Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, Togo; East and Southeast Asia: Philippines; Latin America and the Caribbean: Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru; South Asia: India, Nepal, Pakistan.

(c) Under GFC's Enterprise portfolio in Fiscal Year 2006-2007: (i) Number of organizations supported = 38; (ii) Total amount awarded = $412,500 USD; (iii) Countries = 23 - Africa: Ethiopia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda; East and Southeast Asia: Cambodia, Philippines; Eastern Europe: Bulgaria, Romania; Latin America and the Caribbean: Bolivia, Brazil, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru; South Asia: Bangladesh, India, Pakistan.

(d) Under GFC's Enterprise portfolio in Fiscal Year 2007-(2008): (i) Number of organizations supported = 40; (ii) Total amount awarded = $466,500 USD; (iii) Countries = 22 - Africa: Ethiopia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda; East and Southeast Asia: Cambodia, Philippines; Eastern Europe: Bulgaria, Romania; Latin America and the Caribbean: Brazil, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru; Middle East and North Africa: Egypt, Liberia; South Asia: Bangladesh, India.

3. Human Lactation Center
(Special; 2000)

Human Lactation Center (HLC) is a non-profit corporation utilizing medical and anthropological research methods with issues related to the welfare and status of women and children worldwide. For 28 years, HLC has researched breastfeeding and weaning practices, the effects of HIV in breast milk, child sexual abuse, and the result of such abuse on women during childbirth, and post-partum. HLC is also concerned with development issues. Globally, it has educated public health officials and individuals on how critical it is to support women's social and economic betterment. Its research has uncovered common strands of supportive behaviour in the cultures studied and dysfunctional effects, particularly on the mother, where such support is lacking. HLC continues to examine the effects of sexual abuse on the reproductive and mental health of women and children. By creating and speaking in conferences, partnering in studies with others, and publishing the research relevant to the effects of childhood sexual abuse, we are attempting to help reshape attitudes and reverse public and professional apathy and tolerance for childhood trafficking and sexual abuse. The Human Lactation Center collaborates with the United States of America Association for the Club of Rome, Post Partum Support International, the American Anthropological Association, the Family Violence & Sexual Assault Institute, and others, to achieve these goals. HLC is a member of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, a Committee of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO) and its following committees and subcommittees: the Subcommittee on Older Women, the Committee on Mental Health, and the Committee on Migration.

During this reporting period (2004-2007), the Director and/or the staff of The Human Lactation Center organized and presented four side-events at the NGO Committee on the Status of Women (CONGO) conferences in New York, United States of America: "The Many Faces of Torture" on 8 March 2004; "Ritual Abuse & Torture: a Global Perspective in 2005," on 7 March 2005; "When I

Was a Girl" on 1 March 2007 and "Women on the Edge" on 26 February 2007. These sessions were filmed and DVDs were produced for the participants to use in cable TV, information programs and classroom discussion.

The Director and/or the staff of The Human Lactation Center attended, participated in the discussion and volunteered on administrative tasks in the following meetings of CONGO NGOs in New York, United States of America: (i) Mental Health general monthly meetings on 14 October 2004; 13 January 2005; and 18 February 2005; (ii) Mental Health Human Rights Working Group meeting on 14 October 2004; (iii) NGO Subcommittee on Older Women general monthly meetings and programs on 15 December 2004, 19 January 2005, and 16 February 2005; (iv) Committee on the Status of Women (CSW) general monthly meeting and yearly conference planning meetings on the following dates: 4 October 2005; 13 December 2005; 24 January 2005; 15 June 2006; 21 September 2006; 5 October 2006; 17 October 2006; 16 January 2007; 6 February 2007, 19 April 2007, and 15 November 2007;
The director and/or staff of Human Lactation Center attended as an audience member the following meetings of CONGO NGOs in New York, United States of America: (i) NGO/ Economic and Social Council meeting on social development on 17 March 2005; (ii) Violence Against Women workshop by the NGO Committee on the Status of Women and the New York Lawyers Association on 4 March 2006; (iii) CSW Annual Luncheon with the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women on 18 May 2006; (iv) NGO/Department of Public Information (DPI) Conference "Climate Change" on 5 September 2007; (v) 2006 CSW conferences on 27 February; 2, 6, 8 and 9 March; 2 March 2007; 5-6 March 2007;

The director and/or staff of Human Lactation Center attended as an audience member the following United Nations meetings in New York, United States of America: (i) DPI briefing, "The Family Today" on 13 May 2004; (ii) DPI/NGO conference, "Millennium Development Goals: Civil Society Takes Action" on 9 July 2004; (iii) DPI Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Conference on 9 September 2004; (iv) U Thant Institute's "Prospects for Peace" on 3 December 2004; (v) Commission on Social Development session, "Year Review of the Copenhagen Conference" on 20 January 2005; (vi) Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignities of Persons with Disabilities on 26 January 2005; (vii) Open meeting on the General Assembly, Civil Society and NGOs on 23 June 2005; (viii) General Assembly/Civil Society open forum on peace and conflict resolution on 11 May 2007; (ix) Briefing for NGO's with the President of the General Assembly 9 November 2007.

The director and/or staff of Human Lactation Center viewed United Nations webcasts from their office in Westport, Connecticut United States of America of the meeting on the General Assembly, Civil Society and NGOs on 24 June 2005; the DPI/NGO Conference on 8 September 2005; the General Assembly World Summit on 15 & 16 September 2005; DPI briefing and General Assembly session on 9 December 2005; the International Women's Day program on 8 March 2006; Security Council meeting on Haiti on 27 March 2006; Secretary General's Lecture Series on Language on 28 March 2006; DPI/NGO briefing on families 11 May 2006; General Assembly's session on indigenous peoples 15 May 2006; General Assembly's session 20 September 2006; noon press meeting featuring Ban Ki Moon 14 December 2006; General Assembly/Civil Society Open Forum on

Peace and Conflict Resolution 10 May 2007; Security Council meeting on "Maintenance of International Peace and Security" on 25 June 2007; Peace building Commission meeting 27 June 2007; General Assembly dialogue with Civil Society 9 November 2007; and the General Assembly's Commemorative High-level Plenary Meeting 13 December 2007.

The Human Lactation Center contributes to the goals of Economic and Social Council by supporting the current commitments of the Human Rights Council, the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, the NGO Committee on Mental Health, and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. Since 2003, The Human Lactation Center has worked in a variety of venues to bring the acts of ritual abuse and torture as human rights violations into public awareness. The Human Lactation Center will continue its NGO connection with the United Nations in pursuit of these goals.

4. International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (Special; 1996)

PART I - Introduction

The International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) is an international, independent health professional organisation that supports and promotes the rehabilitation of torture survivors and works for the prevention of torture worldwide. With a General Secretariat in Denmark, the IRCT is composed of 139 member torture rehabilitation centres and programmes in 70 countries that provide treatment to torture survivors and advocate for an end to torture worldwide.

ii. Changes within the organisation

Expanded membership and activities: Membership within the IRCT global network of torture treatment centres and programmes has grown steadily during the reporting period, from 97 in 2004 to 139 today. This growth means that the IRCT works in ever more countries in all regions and collaborates globally with even more human rights and civil society groups. In particular, the IRCT has received funding to prioritise the creation and support of torture rehabilitation services in conflict and post-conflict environments, with recent initiatives focused on Iraq, Darfur, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Afghanistan.

Diversified funding base: Since its last report, the IRCT has been able to find a growing number of donors to support its work. These donors include an increasing number of OECD governments, several private foundations and a number of individuals. This diversified donor base means that the IRCT is able to expand its work into new geographical areas and provides for long-term sustainability.

PART II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its bodies, and/or other United Nations meetings: (i) *60th session of Commission on Human Rights, Geneva, March-April 2004.* The IRCT participated, submitted a written statement and organised a side event with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture, Professor Theo van Boven as panellists, focusing on "The role of rehabilitation centres in the prevention of torture"; (ii) *61st session of Commission on Human Rights, Geneva, March-April 2005.* The IRCT participated and organised a side event with

Justice Renate Winter from the International Court of Sierra Leone in a roundtable discussion about the medical and legal documentation of torture using the *Istanbul Protocol*. The IRCT also worked during this session to liaise with diplomatic delegations and promote the adoption of the United Nations Basic Principles of Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law Violations.; (iii) *62nd session of the Commission on Human Rights, Geneva, first quarter 2006.* The IRCT co-signed a joint statement made on behalf of 265 non-governmental organisations on the final session of the Commission; (iv) *1st session of the Human Rights Council, Geneva, June 2006.* The IRCT participated and submitted a written statement, lobbying for an institution building process that will facilitate an effective universal periodic review of Member States' fulfilment of their human rights obligations and commitments. Furthermore, the IRCT advocated for a strong mandate of the United Nations Special Procedures mechanism, in particular the Special Rapporteur on Torture; (v) *4th session of the Human Rights Council, Geneva, March 2007.* The IRCT participated and submitted a written statement the welcoming the report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture, which highlighted survivors' rights to reparations, including medical and psychological rehabilitation.

ii. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field or at Headquarters: (i) *Collaboration with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture (SR Torture).* The IRCT continues to engage in fruitful collaboration with the special mandate holder. IRCT provided the SR Torture with ongoing support throughout the reporting period, highlighting his reports and providing him with contact information for country visits and for medical experts. In December 2006, the Special Rapporteur on Torture was a keynote speaker at the IX International Symposium on Torture organised by the IRCT in Berlin, Germany. The Special Rapporteur also has signed his name to several statements and articles issued by the IRCT, in particular emphasising the importance of the global movement against torture in the context of the war on terrorism; (ii) *United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, 3 May 2007.* Visit to IRCT General Secretariat to discuss ways of strengthening co-operation between the IRCT and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; (iii) *Collaboration with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).* The plight of children who suffer torture is an ongoing thematic concern of the IRCT. The IRCT has addressed and met with UNICEF representatives on several occasions in 2006 and 2007. In 2006, the IRCT further provided written recommendations to the United Nations Study on Violence against Children and joined the campaign in mid 2007 to support the establishment of the United Nations Special Representative for Violence against Children. A working group on children and torture was set up within the IRCT in late 2007 to focus on children and torture, and it is believed that the IRCT will continue to collaborate with UNICEF to promote this topic; (iv) *Collaboration with United Nations Office of Project Services (UNOPS)/Iraq.* The IRCT has collaborated with UNOPS in Iraq to set up and support the Basra-based centre Bahjat al Fuad Centre for Rehabilitation of Torture Victims. This support has included an intense training programme both inside and outside Iraq, to further develop the capacity of medical professionals to treat torture patients, and of legal professionals to identify, document and use evidence of torture in court proceedings. The centre has treated more than 600 patients and acts as a knowledge-sharing hub in the region; (v) *Collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).* Because refugees represent a significant portion of the patients seeking services in IRCT member centres, the IRCT continues to engage in dialogue with UNHCR regarding three major issues: community services to refugees, resettlement and services for asylum seekers and refugees who are torture survivors. These issues

were highlighted in a preface written by High Commissioner Antonio Guterres for the IRCT's 2007 publication *Together against Torture; (vi) Collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO)*. From April to December 2005, the IRCT and WHO jointly carried a project in Uzbekistan, training 70 medical staff working in the prison system under the Uzbek Ministries for Interior and Health to recognise torture and ill-treatment.

iii. Initiatives supporting international development goals (MDGs)/global principles

United Nations Day in Support of Victims of Torture (26 June). For more than a decade, the IRCT has promoted and supported the worldwide commemoration of 26 June, the United Nations Day in Support of Victims of Torture. Each year, the IRCT produced television and radio spots, posters, advertisements and various other materials that are disseminated to centres and used throughout the world in the annual campaign. The IRCT utilised the day to promote ratification of the United Nations Convention against Torture and its Optional Protocol, and provided centres and organisations generic templates for approaching their governments about signing and ratifying these instruments.

Following the 26 June, the IRCT synthesised information from participating centres and organisations into an annual publication, *Together against Torture*, which provided, in visual and narrative format, information about the events held worldwide in celebration of the day. This report is often used as a source of fundraising and advocacy by IRCT member centres.

The IRCT further highlighted other special United Nations days, such as the World Health Day or Human Rights Day annually through press releases and statements on the web site.

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (UNVFVT). The UNVFVT is a significant source of funding for IRCT member centres, yet it continues to only be able to fund roughly half of the requests it receives each year. With a grant from the Sigrid Rausing Trust, the IRCT initiated in 2006 a project aimed at increasing government contributions to the UNVFVT. Through letter writing and lobbying activities, the IRCT met with representatives from OECD governments and encouraged them to increase their support for rehabilitation both through direct funding to centres and by earmarking monies to the UNVFVT.

United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT) and its Optional Protocol (OPCAT). Full ratification and implementation of UNCAT and the Optional Protocol remains a priority concern of the IRCT. During the reporting period, the IRCT's campaign around this issue took several forms, from publication of letters/articles in world newspapers, to designating this topic as the theme for the 2006 annual 26 June campaign. In 2005 and 2006, the IRCT, as a member of the Coalition of International NGOs Against Torture (CINAT), organised a letter campaign addressed not only to those countries who have not ratified UNCAT, but also to those countries who at the time of ratification did not recognise the competence of the Committee against Torture under Articles 21 and 22 of the Convention.

In July 2007 IRCT joint a CINAT letter writing campaign lobbying UNCAT States Parties to fulfil their important duty to nominate only independent, committed and highly qualified candidates for election as Committee members.

5. Legal Advisory Office for Popular Organizations (Special; 2004)

PART I. Introduction

The Legal Advisory Office for Popular Organizations (acronym GAJOP in Portuguese, for Gabinete de Assessoria Jurídica às Organizações Populares) is a NGO created in 1981 in Recife, State of Pernambuco, Brazil. Its mission is to work for the protection and promotion of human rights and the consolidation of democracy in Brazil, specifically in the areas of access to justice and public security. GAJOP´s work is carried out through four main projects: International Human Rights Program, Witness Protection Program, and Programs of Education for Citizenship and Citizen Justice. The International Human Rights Program is GAJOP´s project which most contributed to the work of the United Nations.

PART II. Contributions of GAJOP to the work of the United Nations

i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings.

Three representatives of our NGO attended the 61st session of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland, between 14 March and 22 April 2005. On this occasion, they launched the English version of the book "Independence of Judges in Brazil: relevant aspects, cases and recommendations," during a briefing in the presence of Mr. Leandro Despouy, Special Rapporteur on Independence of Judges and Lawyers, held in Palais des Nations, on 4 April. This book included four articles on related topics, reports of 37 cases of violations of judicial independence in Brazil, as well as versions in Portuguese of the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary and the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct, which until then were unpublished in that language. In parallel, GAJOP submitted and circulated a written statement on the Independence of Judges in Brazil (E/CN.4/2005/NGO/211, 8 March 2005), which expressed concern for the lack of judicial independence in Brazil, and called on the Commission on Human Rights and the Brazilian State for a special attention in those matters. GAJOP´s representatives had private meetings with the following mandate holders: Mr. Stephen J. Toope, president of the Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearance and Mr. Manfred Nowak, Special Rapporteur on Torture, on 4 April; Mrs. Chloé Mamay-Baszanger, Assistant of the Secretary-General on Human Rights Defenders, on 6 April; Mr. Phillip Alston, Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Arbitrary and Summary Executions, on 7 April; and Mrs. Yakin Ertürk, Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, 8 April.

One member of GAJOP, a lawyer of the International Human Rights Program, attended the second session of the Human Rights Council, held in Geneva, Switzerland, between 18 September and 6 October 2006. At this opportunity, contacts were maintained with the mandate holders of special procedures on Racism, Human Rights Defenders and Independence of Judges, as well as with international non governmental organizations based in Geneva. GAJOP´s representative also took part in the Geneva Training Course (in French), held between 18 and 29 September, at the initiative of the Geneva based non governmental organization International Service for Human Rights (ISHR), aiming

to raise the capacity of human rights defenders from 11 countries to access United Nations mechanisms of promotion and protection of human rights.

ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters.

Cooperation with the Mission in Brazil of United Nations special procedures
Between 2004 and 2007, GAJOP actively cooperated with the Mission in Brazil of various mandates holders of special procedures. On 10 June 2004, Mr. Miloon Kothari, Special Rapporteur on adequate housing, visited Pernambuco and took part in a public meeting in the State Legislative Assembly. On 19 and 20 October 2004, we received the visit of Mr. Leandro Despouy, Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and lawyers. On 21 and 22 October 2005, Mr. Doudou Diène, Special Rappporteur on Contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, was in Pernambuco. On 12 and 13 December, Ms. Hina Jilani, Special representative on the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders, came to Pernambuco. On 11 and 12 November 2007, it was the turn of Mr. Philip Alston, Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary executions. In concrete terms, we helped to set up meetings with NGOs and other civil society stakeholders, victims of violations and their families, journalists, researchers and state officials. We also facilitated the visit of United Nations representatives to remote areas of particular interest in the context of the missions, including meetings with members of vulnerable groups of the society (for example, indigenous and landless people). We also prepared written reports, including relevant information, to be given to United Nations representatives, in order to make easier the work of the Mission.

Communications sent to the United Nations special procedures
In 2004, GAJOP sent 43 cases to the Special Procedures of the Commission on Human Rights of the United Nations. They were related to situations of racial discrimination, arbitrary detention, torture, summary executions, and violations to the right to health, prisons, enforced and involuntary disappearance, and attacks against human rights defenders. In 2005, GAJOP sent 56 cases of violations to the United Nations special procedures on Independence of Judges, Summary Executions, Torture, Racism, and Human Rights Defenders. In 2006, three emblematic cases were communicated to the same procedures, as well as to the Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearance. The first one was sent on 12 July, denouncing the killing of a street child, supposedly by members of the State Military Police of Pernambuco. The second one, on 09 August, was about the violations against the indigenous people Xukuru, located in the countryside of Pernambuco. The last one, sent on 21 December, referred to the disappearance of two land workers in the countryside of this state, supposedly by members of the military police involved in criminal activities.

Activities in support of global principles
Preparation of reports and books on the United Nations work in Brazil
In 2005, GAJOP prepared two thematic reports on the compliance by Brazilian State to the recommendations of United Nations Special Rapporteurs. The first one was made at the occasion of the visit to Brazil by members of the Committee Against Torture (CAT), between 14 and 29 July 2005; the second one was prepared at the requirement of the Special Rapporteur on Executions,

M. Philip Alston and made public on 19 September 2005. It analyzed the respect by Brazil of the recommendations by Ms. Asma Jahangir after her visit in the country in September and October 2003. Those reports, which represented concrete contributions to the follow-up work of the United Nations mechanisms on the promotion and protection of human rights, had large repercussions in the national media.

In 2006, GAJOP edited the book "International Human Rights: practical perspective in the new global context," launched on 06 December in the city of Recife (Brazil), on the occasion of the 58th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, in the presence of Ms. Silvia Pimentel, member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The book specifically included two contributions directly linked to the United Nations work: "The Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture: a practical tool for the prevention of torture in Brazil," made by members of the Association for Prevention of Torture, Geneva-based NGO; and "The Universal Periodic Review Mechanism of the Human Rights Council of the United Nations: Challenges and Prospects," by a member of the International Human Rights Program of GAJOP.

On 15 October 2007, GAJOP undersigned a petition of the Global Coalition against Death Penalty, supporting the UN Resolution for suspending it.

Other contributions

In 2007, GAJOP reduced the number of its actions related to the United Nations, as its International Human Rights Program focused its work, at the requirement of its founders, on the evaluation of the activities carried out in previous years and to find new sources of funding for the next three years.